

Members

Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson
Sen. David Ford
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. James Lewis
Rep. Terry Goodin, Vice-Chairperson
Rep. Robert Bischoff
Rep. Phyllis Pond
Rep. William Ruppel



INDIANA STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LSA Staff:

Susan Montgomery, Attorney for the Committee
John Parkey, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

Authority: IC 15-1-1.5-4

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date:	August 28, 2002
Meeting Time:	1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place:	Board Room, Administration Building, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th Street
Meeting City:	Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number:	1

Members Present: Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson; Sen. David Ford; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Rep. Robert Bischoff; Rep. Phyllis Pond; Rep. William Ruppel.

Members Absent: Sen. James Lewis; Rep. Terry Goodin, Vice-Chairperson.

Chairperson Merritt called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m. The members of the Committee and attendees at the meeting introduced themselves.

1. Preliminary Report of the 2002 Indiana State Fair

Mr. William Stinson, Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair, gave the Committee a preliminary report on the 2002 Indiana State Fair, and furnished the members with 2002 Fair Update (Exhibit A). The Fair broke attendance records, but final financial figures are not yet available. Concern regarding security matters led to new procedures, including the hiring of a retired Indiana State Police captain for a security overview. Vendors' delivery

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

vehicles were inspected and concession vehicles were all parked in one area. Uniformed security was hired for assistance. A discussion followed regarding the hiring of off-duty state law enforcement personnel at the Fair and staff was directed to research this issue and report back to the Committee.

It was fortunate for attendance that a heat wave broke the day before the opening of the Fair; the last eight days had rain in the forecast, but weather was generally good. Several non-profit organizations assisted as sponsors, including Purdue University, and the first tobacco-free day occurred through the efforts of Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation. Since these entities publicized their involvement with their base membership, this helped in promoting the Fair. The Hoosier Millionaire changed its programming format this year, and picked the contestants from the 13,000 in attendance at its show at the Grandstand. Kenny Chesney, part of the grandstand entertainment line-up this year, sold out, and Toby Keith was not far off. Landscaping efforts seem to have paid off, and visitors continued to remark on the cleanliness of the grounds. Mr. Stinson expressed his appreciation for the assistance from the Committee and the General Assembly.

Senator Craycraft asked about the free music stage. Mr. Stinson stated that this stage offers entertainment as a part of the cost of the admission ticket, with sponsors helping in the cost of the performers. Besides country music, urban gospel, Hispanic, and contemporary Christian entertainers were featured. In response to a question from Chairperson Merritt, Mr. Stinson clarified that wristband specials, which allow unlimited midway rides for a period of time, occurred almost every day. Representative Ruppel stated the individuals involved in the National Shropshire Sheep show had commented on the cleanliness of the fairgrounds. Representative Ruppel also commented that the Indiana State Fair Commission, in response to a concern, voted to declare the Fair totally alcohol free and probably will promulgate a Rule to that effect. In response to a question from Representative Bischoff regarding attendance, Mr. Stinson said that the Fair attendance exceeded the earlier record by 42,000 persons.

2. Indiana State Fair Fairground Revenue Bonding

Diana Hamilton, Indiana's Director of Public Finance, gave a presentation on the bond issue for renovation and reconstruction projects, including the West Pavilion, East Pavilion, and the 4H Exhibit Hall. Exhibit B (the credit rating presentation) and Exhibit C (the bond document) were presented to the Committee. The bond issue received a "AAA" rating, and Representative Ruppel complimented Ms. Hamilton on the rating. The State Board of Accounts will be doing an annual (instead of biennial) audit of the State Fair. In answer to a question from Senator Ford, Ms. Hamilton replied that construction will begin after the 2003 Boat, Sport, and Travel Show, with an interruption for the 2003 Fair, and will finish in time for the 2004 Boat, Sport, and Travel Show. Improvements to the 4-H Exhibit Hall are designed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of 4-H in Indiana, in 2003.

3. Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage

Betsy Kranz, Executive Director of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (The Barn), gave an update of the events and issues related to the Barn since the last meeting of the Commission. The idea of a Farmers' Market at the Barn is still being studied, and it appears that there is room for another market in the Indianapolis area. The Barn, while not only providing a market for both vendors and customers, intends the market also to be an educational tool. The Agricultural Business Complex is still a topic of discussion, but the Board of Directors of the Barn is attempting to see if it can actually be afforded. Renovation options for the Krannert building are still being discussed.

A large part of the mission of the Barn is educational programming. The Barn has a full time educator who reached over 2,000 persons last year -- the number may be doubled this year. The Barn had a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Museum during the Fair. Art exhibits are hosted on a quarterly basis. The second annual Normandy Festival (Exhibit D) will be held on October 5. In response to Chairperson Merritt's inquiry, Ms. Kranz stated that although no advertising is done regarding the auditorium rental facility, the use is at capacity now. Senator Lugar conducted a meeting there last year. Ms. Kranz told Representative Bischoff that there are 2 1/2 employees; herself, the educator, and a part time assistant. It is anticipated that there may be some grant money from the United States Department of Agriculture to create a contact person for Farmers' Markets all over the state. With respect to the Agricultural Business Complex, Senator Ford cautioned Ms. Kranz and the Barn's Board to be sensitive to the need to avoid subsidizing activities on a state level that compete with the private market.

There being no further business before the Committee, Chairperson Merritt adjourned the meeting at 2:54 p.m. He set the next meeting for October 29, 2002, at 1:30 p.m. at the Auditorium of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage, 1201 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.